

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 CIEP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /095 W

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R 141843Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 00577

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, EEC

SUBJECT: LIBERALS JOIN IN EC REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

REF: LONDON 0058

1. LIBERALS ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 13
THAT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES WILL ADDRESS FOUR LIBERAL
MEETINGS DURING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN AND THAT LIBERALS
WILL HOLD RALLY IN BIRMINGHAM MAY 31 - JUNE 1 IN ANTICI-
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PATION REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD IN JUNE. MANY PROMINENT

EUROPEAN LIBERALS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND. LIBERALS BELIEVE, ACCORDING TO RECENTLY ELEVATED LORD BANKS, PRESIDENT OF LIBERAL EUROPEAN ACTION GROUP, THAT TO LEAVE THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE DISASTEROUS, THAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER INTO FREE TRADE AREA ARRANGEMENTS WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AFTER WITHDRAWAL. ON OTHER HAND, LIBERALS SEEK FURTHER MODIFICATIONS OF COMMUNITY. LIBERAL MP RUSSELL JOHNSTON SAID THE LIBERALS WANT MUCH STRONGER DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS WITH DIRECT ELECTIONS TO A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. JOHNSTON ALSO CALLED FOR PROVISION OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO THE CAMPAIGN BOTH FOR AND AGAINST BRITAIN'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP.

2. TRADE SECRETARY PETER SHORE RAISED OBJECTIONS TO SOAMES' ROLE IN QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY 13. SHORE SAID HE HAD ALREADY MADE CLEAR TO SIR CHRISTOPHER AND PUBLICLY HIS VIEWS ON SOAMES' PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNAL DEBATE OVER MEMBERSHIP. HE EXPRESSED HIS WISH SOAMES WOULD DESIST AND NOT TAKE PART IN WHAT IS GOING TO BE A "STRONG AND VEHEMENT" DEBATE.

3. FINALLY, PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY RESPONDED JANUARY 14 TO QUERY FROM CONSERVATIVE LEADER HEATH THAT REFERENDUM QUESTION ITSELF WOULD REQUIRE SIMPLE YES OR NO VOTE FROM ELECTORATE.

SPIERS

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